

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) Process according to [one of the previous claims]claim 1, the blank being processed from the side in contact with the tooth stump and from the side not in contact with the tooth stump.

5. (Amended) Process according to [one of the previous claims]claim 1, the pre-sintered blank comprising zirconium oxide or aluminum oxide ceramic.

6. (Amended) Denture part which can be prepared according to a process according to [one of claims 1 to 5]claim 1.

11. (Amended) Pre-sintered blank according to [one of claims 7 to 10]claim 7, obtained by sintering at a temperature of 850 °C to 1000 °C.

12. (Amended) Pre-sintered blank according to [one of claims 7 to 11]claim 7, having a deviation from the linearity of the shrinkage per spatial direction below 0.05%.

14. (Amended) Process for the preparation of dentures according to [one of claims 1 to 5]claim 1, a blank according to

[one of claims 7 to 12]claim 7 being processed by milling into a shrinkage-matched, enlarged model of the end dentures and densely sintered to its end dimensions.

15. (Amended) Process for the preparation of dentures according to [one of claims 1 to 5]claim 1, a blank according to [one of claims 7 to 12]claim 7 being processed by CAD/CAM processed to a shrinkage-matched, enlarged model of the end dentures and densely sintered to its end dimensions.

16. (Amended) Process according to claim 14[or 15], the pre-sintered blank being aesthetically re-processed after the processing and densely sintered to its end dimensions.

(Rev. 11/13/01)